
Support to Ottawa Businesses Impacted by Demonstrations

Funding Announcement for Invest Ottawa

Questions and Answers

Q1. What is being announced today?

- A1. The Government of Canada is providing \$20 million to support Ottawa's downtown core businesses that haven't been able to operate due to the demonstrations in the city.

The Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario is providing \$20 million to support these downtown Ottawa businesses who have suffered losses.

Invest Ottawa will use its knowledge and experience to mobilize and deliver the funding so that businesses who were unable to operate their business at normal levels can access the support quickly.

Eligible businesses will receive non-repayable contributions of up to \$10,000 to offset costs that are not supported by other federal measures such as rent and wage subsidies. This could include support for utilities, insurance, loss of inventory and unexpected expenses related to the demonstrations.

Today's announcement reinforces the Government of Canada's commitment to helping communities, families and businesses build forward in a strong and inclusive economic recovery.

Q2. Why was Invest Ottawa selected to deliver this support?

- A2. Invest Ottawa, is a key economic development organization in Canada's capital and also serves as the region's Small Business Enterprise Centre. They will use their knowledge and experience to mobilize so that businesses who were unable to operate their business at normal levels due to the demonstrations can access the support quickly. [Invest Ottawa will be collaborating with key partners in the region, including the Ottawa Board of Trade, to deliver this support].

Given the imperative to rapidly launch an intake and distribute funds to Ottawa-based businesses in need of immediate relief, the selection of a delivery partner was based on:

- demonstrated capacity to deliver and distribute funding;

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- a track record of delivering federal funding that demonstrates responsible stewardship; and,
- a broad reach and knowledge of the small business community in Ottawa.

Q3. What businesses will be eligible?

- A3. To support the most vulnerable small businesses, eligible businesses will:
- have at least 1 and fewer than 100 employees;
 - be located in and around the 11 Business Improvement Associations (BIAs) that make up the central districts of Ottawa. These include: Somerset Chinatown; Somerset Village; Bank Street; Sparks Street; ByWard Market; Downtown Rideau; Westboro Village; Vanier; Glebe; Wellington West and Preston, as well the Sandy Hill and Elgin Street areas;
 - be providing in-person services (and could not transition to virtual services in the short-term) and were unable to operate their business at normal levels due to the demonstrations (i.e., unable to open, reduced hours of operations, customers unable to reach them); and,
 - have been viable prior to the current economic disruption and intend to continue operations.

Q4. Are Ottawa businesses outside the downtown core impacted eligible?

- A4. Working with the local stakeholders, the businesses in and around the 11 BIAs have been identified as the most impacted from the demonstrations. This funding is intended to support the most vulnerable in-person small businesses who were unable to operate their business at normal levels due to the demonstrations.

Businesses will need to demonstrate that they have been impacted by the demonstrations. Invest Ottawa will share additional details on the application process in the coming weeks.

Q5. Is \$10,000 sufficient support for those businesses most impacted by the demonstrations?

- A5. The \$10,000 is intended to help offset a portion of the fixed costs that these businesses incurred. During the demonstrations, many were unable to generate the revenue necessary to pay these costs. Examples of the expenses include: utilities, insurance, professional fees, spoiled inventories, or other costs incurred to secure their businesses.

FedDev Ontario and its delivery partner, Invest Ottawa, will continue to monitor the situation, should the demonstrations continue to have an impact over a prolonged period.

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Q6. When will support be available?

A6. Invest Ottawa is mobilizing its team to provide support to businesses quickly.

More information on the application process will be available on the Invest Ottawa website in the coming weeks.

Q7. Will support from FedDev Ontario impact businesses' ability to access and/or levels of other federal supports, such as the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy?

A7. Like the forgivable portion of the Canada Emergency Business Account loan, given the one-time nature of the support, these contributions would meet all the characteristics of an Extraordinary Item by Canada Revenue Agency, and therefore should not impact the businesses' eligibility for other support programs like CEWS.

Q8. Why is support only being provided to businesses in Ottawa, and not to other cities and areas impacted by recent demonstrations?

A8. Across the country we recognize the challenges the citizens of these cities have faced, as well as the sacrifices made by all Canadians throughout this pandemic.

Working with the local stakeholders, the businesses in and around the 11 BIAs have been identified as the most impacted from the demonstrations. This funding is intended to support the most vulnerable in-person small businesses who were unable to operate their business at normal levels due to the demonstrations.

We continue to monitor developments in other areas.

Businesses in need of support are also encouraged to explore other federal programs available, including the Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program, the Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program, the Local Lockdown Program and the Canada Recovery Hiring Program.

The Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit is also available for those not able to work because of sickness or need to self-isolate due to COVID-19.

The Government of Canada, through the regional development agencies, is also delivering more than \$2 billion in support through recovery and relief initiatives to help support businesses and communities impacted by the pandemic: Tourism Relief Fund, Jobs and Growth Fund, Major Festivals and Events Support Initiative, Aerospace Regional Recovery Initiative, and the Canada Community Revitalization Fund. More information on the delivery of these programs in southern Ontario is available on FedDev Ontario's website.

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Q9. Does FedDev Ontario's proposed support to businesses in Ottawa impacted by demonstrations set a precedent for the government and/or regional development agencies to respond similarly to other unanticipated economic disruptions in the future?

A9. Across the country we recognize the challenges the citizens of these cities have faced, as well as the sacrifices made by all Canadians throughout this pandemic.

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Q10. Are other federal supports available and/or being considered for the workers who have been directly impacted by the demonstrations and business closures?

A10. The Government of Canada is providing eligible workers who have been directly affected by a public health lockdown related to the pandemic, support through the expanded [Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit](#). This benefit provides temporary income support to help make ends meet. The government has proposed expanding access for this benefit until March 12, 2022.

Q13. How has federal funding delivered by FedDev Ontario impacted southern Ontario?

A13. Since 2015, the Government of Canada, through FedDev Ontario, has directly invested more than \$1.9 billion in over 2,500 projects working with over 2,500 organizations and businesses that are estimated to generate strong results, such

Commented [K1]: [Government extends expanded access to Local Lockdown Program and Worker Lockdown Benefit - Canada.ca](#)

[Finance to include any others](#)

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as supporting over 145,000 jobs in the region. The far-reaching results of our government's investments can be seen in businesses that are successfully weathering COVID-19 and building resilience for the future through investing in innovative technologies and processes, pivoting to new business models and protecting jobs.

Q14. How much has the Government of Canada, through FedDev Ontario, invested in Ottawa?

A14. Since 2015, the Government of Canada, through FedDev Ontario, has invested over \$ million in # projects in the Ottawa area creating nearly # jobs and maintaining over # jobs.

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